| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/887,040 | ELBER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Tadesse Hailu | 2173 | |

***-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--***

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the Amendment entered on September 1, 2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-8 and 10-47*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   **Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

**Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

1. Claims 1-8 and 10-47 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the applied references, Gadh US Patent No. 6,629,065 in view of Vrobel US Patent No. 6,781,59, either individually or in combination, fails to anticipate and/or render obvious the above claims.

**Gadh** relates generally to the early conceptual design of objects using computer-aided design (CAD) systems. More particularly, Gadh relates to CAD systems, and methods usable in CAD systems, which allow extremely rapid creation of "rough" or conceptual geometric models of objects without having to precisely describe the specific dimensions, locations, and other characteristics of their geometric subcomponents. Gadh relates to CAD systems, and methods usable in CAD systems, which allow creation and editing of geometric models in such a manner that the created/edited model is output very rapidly after the designer's input is provided (i.e., the final model is produced almost instantaneously after input), so as to enhance the ability to interactively create and edit designs. Gadh describes natural commands for positioning of elements in a CAD environment. That is, Gadh describes an alignment commands (e.g., "align with right edge of parent element," "align with left edge of parent element," etc) that provide a quick way to position shape elements, the bounding box-based intersection checks provide the ability to detect potential collisions between elements. The alignment operation provides another means to rapidly relocate elements apart from manually relocating them, with FIGS. 25A-25D illustrating element positioning via alignment operations.

**Vrobel** describes a computer program product executes in a computer workstation to provide editing handles for solid shapes. The computer program provides a graphical user

interface in the preferred form of an icon which is visually associated with a selected displayed solid shape and which, when activated via a user input device, toggles or cycles through plural editing modes of the displayed shape. In the plural editing modes, other graphical user interfaces which include editing "handles" can be utilized to perform various editing functions, the handles of each editing mode having functions dependent upon the respective editing mode. The editing handles themselves are subject to novel employments and manipulations in accordance with aspects of Vrobel's invention. Vrobel also describes the SmartSnap™ operations are performed relative to a "snap point", the snap point by default being the handle base point (As described hereinafter, the snap point can be relocated from its default position at the handle base). The snap point is utilized in a SmartSnap operation as a special point whose geometric coordinates are used to compare with coordinate of another feature in the SmartSnap operation, e.g., for alignment purposes.

Generally, Gadh and Vrobel are related to the current invention but the applied references do not clearly teach the claimed invention. For example, while Vrobel describes local Cartesian coordinate system (Fig. 3B), but Vrobel fails to incorporate a natural language support to said local Cartesian coordinate (internal coordinate system). Furthermore, although Gadh teaches natural language/command but the language does not refer to an object internal co-ordinate system. The language is limited to alignment of a child element with his parent. Contrary to the current claimed invention, Gadh's natural langue refers to the current screen view. Thus, neither Gadh nor Vrobel teaches a computer embodied virtual environment wherein a relationship between virtual object is selectable to specify actions using an object internal coordinate system

supported natural language positioning command, as taught by the present claimed invention of claims 1-8 and 10-47.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 630 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (571) 272-4048 Art Unit 2173.

4. An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Patent Examiner Tadesse Hailu
Art Unit 2173
November 18, 2005